

Tours of the Gulfport VA offered



The picture above, taken on August 30, shows one of the many buildings on VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System's Gulfport Campus destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Hurricane Katrina. In fact, due to the safety restrictions placed on access to Highway 90, most employees have not even seen the horrible effects of the storm along the water's edge.

All VA Gulf Coast employees are encouraged to go on the driving tour along Highway 90 from the Biloxi Campus to the Gulfport Campus. Those interested in taking the tour should contact their service chief.

Driving along the beach road to Gulfport has been very emotional for many employees. A member of the Psychology Service will accompany each tour to provide support. After taking the tour, one employee remarked, "All employees need to take time to see the coastline and the Gulfport Campus. It makes you feel grateful for what you have."

Director of VA's National Chaplain Service visits VA Gulf Coast

Chaplain Hugh Maddry, Director of VA's National Chaplain Center, visited VA Gulf Coast Health Care on October 11 to provide the facility's Chaplain Service staff with individual pastoral support.

During his visit, Chaplain Maddry toured the Gulfport Division. Chaplain Maddry also spent time in conferences and in prayer with VA Gulf Coast's Chaplain Service staff recognizing them for their actions during Hurricane Katrina and helping to support and lead them through their experiences.

New Orleans Credit Union update

VAHNOLA Federal Credit Union is asking its members to provide their current mailing address and contact information to the credit union by e-mail vafederalcredit@bellsouth.net or by phone, 1-800-541-8921, ext 697.

Christmas checks are available now but members must provide a current address for the check to be mailed.

All loan payments are being deferred through January 31.

The credit union will operate out of the Lockheed Federal Credit Union in Atlanta until January 31, 2006. It's hours of operation are 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. CST. To contact the credit union, call 1-800-541-8921, ext. 697.

VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is now conducting employee tours of the hurricane-ravaged Gulfport Division.

Most employees have not seen the campus since

Videos show VA's response to Hurricane Katrina

VISN 16: Into the Eye of the Storm is a special video produced by the Medical Media Service team at VA Gulf Coast Health Care System that documents VA's response to Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Gulfport, and New Orleans before, during, and after the storm. The nine minute video is available for viewing on the VA Knowledge Network, vawww.vakncdn.lrn.va.gov,

Channel 2 at the following Central Standard Times—

Wednesday, October 26—4 a.m., 12 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 27—1 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m.

Into the Eye of the Storm incorporates footage from VA Gulf Coast's special video newsletter, also produced by the Medical Media Service team at VA Gulf Coast Health Care System.

This newsletter can accessed at http://10.132.30.14/WebMedia/Video_Newsletter_katrina.aspx.

IRS offers relief to hurricane victims

The IRS is offering special tax relief and assistance to victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. For more information, visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov and click on "Help for Hurricane Victims" or call 1-866-562-5227.

New Orleans employees who need to make contact with VA

The following is a list of New Orleans VA employees who have not yet made contact with the VA. If you know the whereabouts of any of these employees, please have them call 601-420-1984.

Bowles, Jennifer L
Coleman, Theone Y
Epps, Joseph M
Everett, Kenneth L
Owens, Larry D
Ricciardi, James E

Sakauye, Kenneth M
Sam, Charles J Jr
Sanders, Debra
Tran, Thien Lan T
Walker, Philpatrick D
Washington, Lionel

About After the Storm

The *After the Storm* newsletter is a publication produced by the South Central VA Health Care Network in an effort to supply updated information to those affected by Hurricane Katrina as we continue to recover from this devastating storm.

This newsletter will be published on a recurring basis. For more information about the publication or to provide story ideas or information, call April Smith, writer/editor, VISN 16, at 601-364-7902.

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